



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHA Receives Grant from March of Dimes, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to Reduce Early Elective Deliveries**

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is pleased to announce it has received a grant from the March of Dimes Foundation and the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to support the work of the Improving kNowledge to Decrease Early Elective Deliveries (INDEED) project, which aims to reduce early term elective deliveries that are not medically necessary.

“We are grateful for the support provided by the March of Dimes Foundation and the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation as we work to reduce non-medically necessary early term elective deliveries throughout Connecticut,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “This grant will provide funding for critical education to patients and providers that will help improve safety and quality of care for mothers and infants.”

The INDEED project was created to lower the number of non-medically necessary early elective deliveries (EEDs prior to 39 weeks as defined by The Joint Commission Perinatal Core Measure) in Connecticut from a rate of three percent to below the national average of two percent. Non-medically necessary EEDs are associated with increased risks to the health of both mother and infant. Infants are at risk for many serious health complications because vital organs, such as the brain, lungs, and liver have not been fully developed. Risks to the mother include an increased risk of a cesarean delivery, which carries its own dangers. These include a longer recovery time (weeks rather than days), as well as risks associated with major surgery, including infection and increased risk that future pregnancies may require cesarean delivery.

Labor induction can also cause maternal complications such as increased risk of infection and postpartum hemorrhage due to prolonged labor, and increased use of instruments, such as forceps or vacuum, during delivery.

CHA will work with the state’s 25 birthing hospitals to identify the reasons why EEDs are occurring. The information will be used to create training materials to prevent future non-medically necessary EEDs through staff and patient education as well as reduce variation of care and standardize care across the state.

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### **About CHA**

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, population health, and hospital reimbursement.

### **About the March of Dimes**

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. For more than 75 years, moms and babies have benefited from March of Dimes research, education, vaccines, and breakthroughs. For the latest resources and health information, visit our websites [marchofdimes.org](http://marchofdimes.org) and [nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org). To participate in our annual signature fundraising event, visit [marchforbabies.org](http://marchforbabies.org). If you have been affected by prematurity or birth defects, visit our [shareyourstory.org](http://shareyourstory.org) community to find comfort and support. You can also find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **About Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation**

Through charitable grant making, the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation LLC, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, promotes Anthem's inherent commitment to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and families in communities that Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield serves. The Foundation focuses its funding on strategic initiatives that address and provide innovative solutions to health care challenges, as well as promoting the Healthy Generations Program, a multi-generational initiative that targets specific disease states and medical conditions. These include: prenatal care in the first trimester, low birth weight babies, cardiac morbidity rates, long term activities that decrease obesity and increase physical activity, diabetes prevalence in adult populations, adult pneumococcal and influenza vaccinations and smoking cessation. The Foundation also coordinates the company's year-round Associate Giving program and its parent foundation provides a 50 percent match of associates' pledges. ®ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.